THE HIDDEN ONES, SAFE AND SECURE

Investigation 17:11 -- The Architecture of Biblical Concealment

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THE OPENING

Men hide by camouflage. They conceal themselves in the clutter of a forest or a landscape, hoping the enemy will not look close enough to find them.

What God hides can never be found by searching.

When God conceals His servants, no earthly search can uncover them, and no enemy can touch them until His appointed hour.

Until His appointed hour arrived, no hand on earth could take the life of Jesus.

When men picked up stones in the temple to execute Him on the spot, they could not touch Him. He did not fight, and He did not negotiate. The text prints five words:

John 8:59 (KJV):

> *"Then took they up stones to cast at him: **but Jesus hid himself**, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."*

He walked straight through their crowd, unseen.

He did it again after His public signs were rejected (**"and departed, and did hide himself from them"** -- John 12:36), fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy that the Father would conceal His Servant like a polished shaft:

Isaiah 49:2 (KJV):

> *"And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; **in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me**, and made me a polished shaft; **in his quiver hath he hid me**;"*

In Scripture, concealment is never fear. **It is divine protection over an unfinished work.**

When God's anger strikes the earth, tradition argues over whether God's people are evacuated or left to suffer. Scripture prints a third category entirely: **they are hidden.**

I. THY HIDDEN ONES

Scripture does not treat concealment as an emergency measure. It titles God's people by their concealment.

When the nations conspire against God's people, the text does not call them soldiers or citizens. It names their category.

Psalm 83:3 (KJV):

> *"They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against **thy hidden ones**."*

Why are they hidden? Because their life is not anchored on the earth. Paul states the present coordinate of the believer before any storm or judgment arrives.

Colossians 3:2-3 (NET):

> *"Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, for you have died and **your life is hidden with Christ in God**."*

David locates that exact coordinate in the Old Testament. It is not a bunker made by hands.

Psalm 31:20 (KJV):

> *"Thou shalt **hide them in the secret of thy presence** from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues."*

The finding: You cannot destroy what you cannot reach.

The believer's life is already concealed in Christ before trouble starts. Concealment is not where you run when the sky falls -- **it is where you live.**

II. THE INFANT AND THE WILDERNESS

When the enemy issues a death decree against the seed, God's answer is not always an army. It is concealment.

When Pharaoh ordered the slaughter of every male child in Egypt, the deliverer was concealed from the sword.

Hebrews 11:23 (KJV):

> *"By faith Moses, when he was born, **was hid three months** of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment."*

When Herod ordered the slaughter of the children in Bethlehem, the Father executed the identical protocol for His own Son: **He hid Him in Egypt** until the tyrant was dead (Matt 2:13-14).

When Jezebel hunted Elijah across every nation, God did not send a chariot of fire to fight her. He sent the prophet eastward: **"hide thyself by the brook Cherith"** (1 Kgs 17:3), where ravens brought his bread.

In Revelation, when the dragon stands ready to devour the child, the Woman is given the same wilderness shelter.

Revelation 12:6 (KJV):

> *"And the woman fled into the wilderness, **where she hath a place prepared of God**, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."*

When the serpent casts a river of water out of his mouth to flood her, the earth opens and swallows the flood (Rev 12:15-16).

The finding: Whether an infant in Egypt, a prophet by a brook, or the Woman in the wilderness -- **the flood rises on the earth, but it cannot reach the place prepared by God.**

III. WHEN THE WATER RISES

Concealment does not mean the storm never comes. It means the flood cannot reach the coordinate where you are put.

David did not pray for a world without danger. He prayed from the middle of it, pointing to where God places His own when the ground gives way.

Psalm 27:5 (NET):

> *"He will surely give me **shelter in the day of danger**; he will hide me in his home; he will place me on **an inaccessible rocky summit**."*

When the flood surges, elevation is the only difference between being swept away and standing dry.

Psalm 32:6-7 (NET):

> *"For this reason every one of your faithful followers should pray to you while there is a window of opportunity. **Certainly when the surging water rises, it will not reach them.** You are my **hiding place**; you protect me from distress. You surround me with shouts of joy from those celebrating deliverance."*

The finding: Notice the order in Psalm 32.

1. The surging water **rises** (the trial hits the field).

2. It **will not reach them** (the height of the hiding place).

3. Deliverance is **celebrated with shouts of joy** (standing after the flood).

The water is real. The flood is on the earth. **But it cannot climb the rock.**

IV. UNTIL HIS ANGER IS PASSED

When God's own judgment strikes the earth, His people are ordered into doors before the blow lands.

Isaiah 26:20-21 (NET):

> *"Go, my people! **Enter your inner rooms! Close your doors behind you! Hide for a little while, until his angry judgment is over!** For look, the LORD is coming out of the place where he lives, to punish the sin of those who live on the earth."*

Job knew this Passover protocol thousands of years before Isaiah. He asked to be concealed in the grave itself while wrath ran its course.

Job 14:13 (NET):

> *"O that you would **hide me in Sheol, and conceal me till your anger has passed!** O that you would set me a time and then remember me!"*

To modern ears, hiding in the grave sounds grim. But Scripture never paints physical death for the righteous as an empty pit.

In Luke 16:22-25, while the rich man burns in torment, the beggar Lazarus dies and is carried by angels into **Abraham's bosom** -- comforted, conscious, and concealed from the tribulation of the earth until the resurrection call (**"You will call and I -- I will answer you"** -- Job 14:15).

Zephaniah extends that call to the meek of the earth before the day arrives.

Zephaniah 2:3 (KJV):

> *"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: **it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger**."*

The finding: Wrath has a fixed duration. It is called *a little while*, and it *passes*. Whether sealed behind doors on the earth or resting in Abraham's bosom, **wrath never strikes the hidden.**

V. THE COUNTERFEIT HIDING PLACE

There is a hiding place that fails.

When the sixth seal breaks, the rulers and mighty men of the earth seek their own concealment.

Revelation 6:15-16 (KJV):

> *"And the kings of the earth, and the great men... **hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains**; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and **hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb:"*

The finding: Notice the difference in preposition.

- The wicked try to hide ***from* His face in the rocks** -- and find no shelter.

- His servants are hidden ***by* His face in the rock** (Psa 31:20 / Col 3:3).

You cannot hide *from* the One seated on the throne. You can only be hidden *in* Him.

CLOSING

The safest place in the universe is in the shadow of His hand.

When God passed by Moses on Mount Sinai, He did not remove Moses from the mountain. He put him in the cleft of the rock and covered him:

Exodus 33:22 (KJV):

> *"And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that **I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand** while I pass by:"*

That is the pattern from Genesis to Revelation.

God does not need to evacuate the earth to protect His own from what is coming upon it. He has an architecture of concealment tested across four thousand years of Scripture:

- He hid the **Son** in the shadow of His hand until His hour arrived (Isa 49:2 / John 8:59).

- He hides the **life of the believer** in Christ now (Col 3:3).

- He hides His **people** in their chambers and in His presence when His anger strikes the earth (Isa 26:20 / Zeph 2:3).

Men look for safety in walls, armies, and mountains. Scripture points to the only coordinates that hold when the ground flees:

Hidden in the Rock. Covered by His hand.

THE BEREAN SCOPE -- Investigation 17:11 [Acts 17:11]

Searching the Word to prove the Mystery.

-- Point Seventeen Eleven (Acts 17:11)